



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

**NOVARTIS
CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ONE HEALTH PLAZA 104/3
EAST HANOVER NJ 07936-1080**

COPY MAILED

SEP 19 2006

In re Application of

ASCHER, et al.

Application No. 10/510,532

Filed: October 7, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 32439A

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

**DECISION ON PETITION
TO WITHDRAW
FROM RECORD**

This is a decision on the Request to Withdraw as attorney or agent of record under 37 C.F.R. § 1.36(b), filed May 16, 2006.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

A grantable request to withdraw as attorney/agent of record must be signed by every attorney/agent seeking to withdraw or contain a clear indication that one attorney is signing on behalf of another/others. A request to withdraw will not be approved unless at least 30 (thirty) days would remain between the date of approval and the later of the expiration date of a time to file a response or the expiration date of the maximum time period which can be extended under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

The Office cannot approve the request at this time since the reasons provided do not meet any of the conditions under the mandatory or permissive categories enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40. Section 10.40 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulation states, “[a] practitioner shall not withdraw from employment in a proceeding before the Office without permission from the Office[.]” More specifically, 37 CFR 10.40 states, “[i]f paragraph (b) of this section is not applicable, a practitioner may not request permission to withdraw in matter pending before the Office unless such request or such withdrawal is” for one the permissive reasons listed in 37 CFR 10.40(c). The reasons set forth in the request, “file transfer” does not meet any of the conditions set forth in 37 CFR 10.40.

All future communications from the Office will continue to be directed to the above-listed address until otherwise notified by applicant.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Monica A. Graves at 571-272-7253.

Denise Pothier
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: **D. Peter Hochberg Co., LPA
1940 East 6th Street, 6th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2294**